Tamil Arasu

FEBRUARY 1982 75 P

Thiruvalluvar Year 2013

Thai-Masi, Dhunmathi

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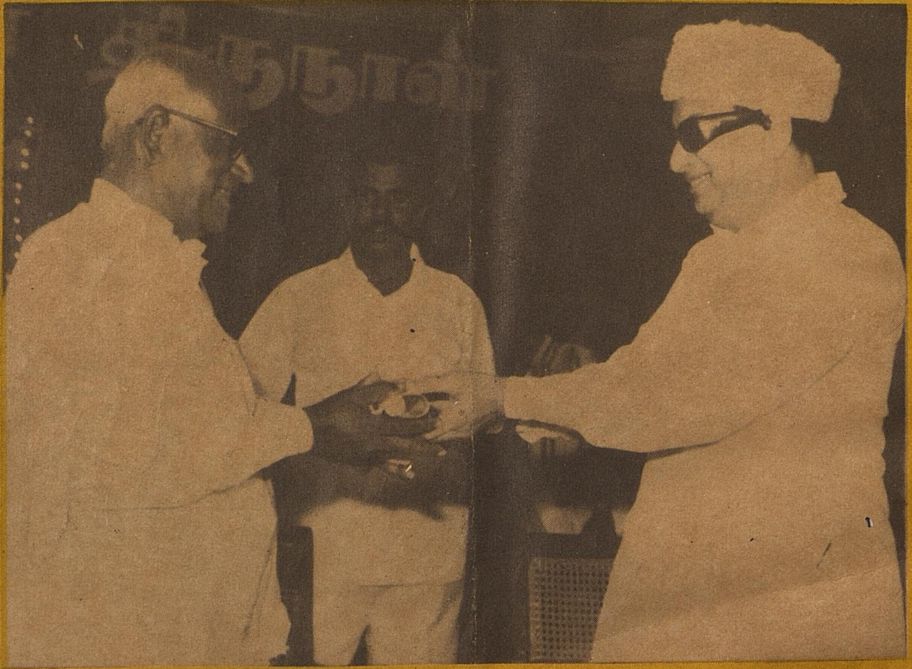

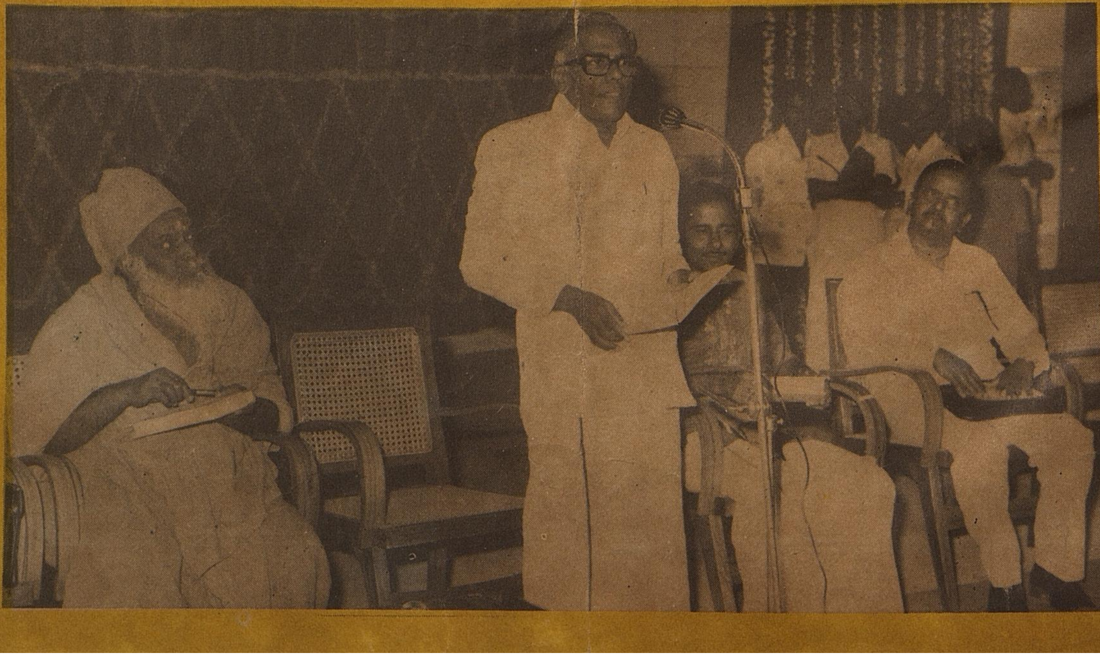

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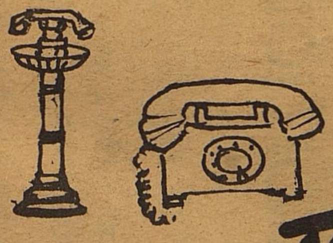

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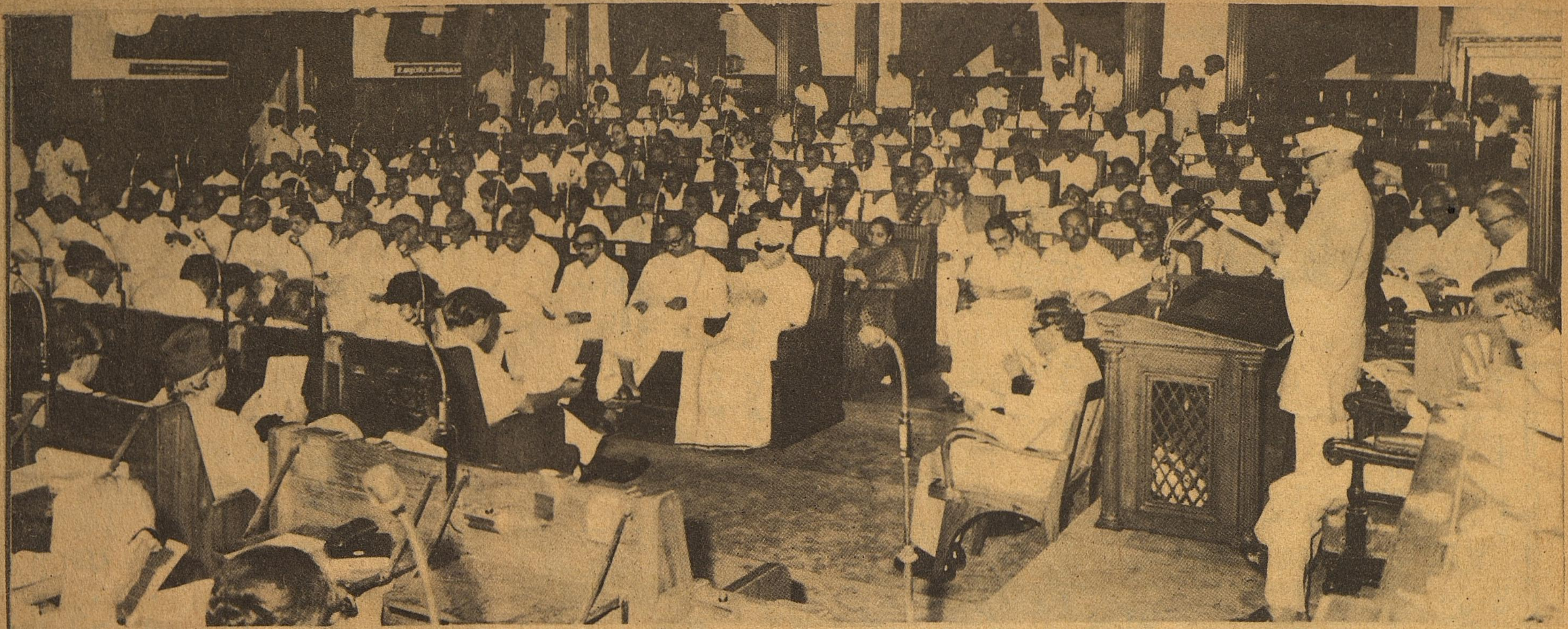


SCHEMES TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS OF THE POOR

ADDRESS BY
Thiru SADIQ ALI
GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU

Honourable Members of the Legislature,

At the outset, may I offer you a warm welcome to the first joint session of the legislature in 1982?

You will recall that when I addressed you last at the Joint Session of the Legislature, we were all in a state of high elation over the successful conduct and completion of the historic World Tamil Conference at Madurai. That Conference was eloquent testimony to our great love for Tamil and deep loyalty to our language. The enthusiastic year-long celebrations of the Bharathi Centenary in which we are participating this year is a

tribute to the love of our language which ripens into love for our country. The songs of Bharathi which are imbued with a spirit of freedom, equality and fraternity have inspired in us the resolve to create a new society which will transcend caste and religious differences. The Tamil Nadu Government has decided to celebrate the Bharathi Centenary as the year of national integration and has commended this constructive suggestion to the Government of India also for its acceptance. It is a matter of considerable gratification to us that our State is in the forefront of organising the Bharathi Centenary celebrations not only in our State from the level of Panchayat Union to the State Capital but also in the various States of our country and in countries abroad, thus paying a tribute to Bharathi and homage to the Bharat of his dreams.

In my address last year, I had referred to the prevalence of drought conditions in certain pockets of the districts of Pudukkottai and North Arcot due to failure of monsoons. But, in the course of the year, the drought conditions spread to 13 out of the 16 districts of Tamil Nadu. Scarcity of drinking water and crop failure seriously affected the urban and rural areas of the State. The Government launched a massive relief and rehabilitation programme to alleviate the sufferings of the masses in the drought affected districts. A Central Team which visited certain districts of the State was convinced of the very difficult conditions obtaining in various parts of Tamil Nadu. On its recommendation, the Government of India approved an expenditure of Rs. 48.90 crores on drought relief. The State Government till about the end of December 1981, had incurred an expenditure of Rs. 55.24 crores on drought relief operations. A Committee constituted with leaders from all political parties to supervise the drought relief works proved very helpful. Hundreds of bore wells sunk at various places through different Governmental agencies ensured easy supply of drinking water in the drought affected districts. The way in which the drought situation in the State was handled by the Government, is a matter of which it can legitimately be proud. Apart from providing immediate relief to the drought stricken people, the works executed added permanent assets to the State in the form of drinking water sources, improvements to roads, irrigation tanks, etc.

Even though the drought persisted throughout a major portion of the year of 1981, the State Government ensured adequate availability of foodgrains through an efficient public distribution system. The State Government has been requesting throughout this period for a greater allocation of foodgrains from the Government of India through the Food Corporation of India. There were many practical difficulties in even the allotted quantity of rice reaching us. The State Government has been requesting the Government of India for an allocation of

about 10,800 tonnes of wheat per month for distribution through public distribution system. However, the allocation has been only of the order of 4,000 tonnes per month. Further, the Government of India reduced the allocation of wheat, for manufacture of wheat products, to roller flour mills in the State from 65,000 tonnes to 30,000 tonnes.

The offtake of rice which was of the order of 25,000 tonnes in the month of January shot up to 79,000 tonnes per month subsequently. To meet the accelerated public demand, the State Government ordered procurement of foodgrains, not only from within the State, but also from other States through open market purchases. The services of the co-operatives were also utilised for buying foodgrains. Owing to all these concerted moves, the Government was able to tide over the difficulties on the food front during the drought period.

Inspite of these difficult conditions, developmental works have been going on at a rapid rate in the State. While the approved Plan outlay for the current year is Rs. 514 crores, it is expected to exceed Rs. 600 crores, even after excluding the expenditure on drought works. The State Government has drawn up an ambitious Plan programme to the tune of about Rs. 711 crores for the next financial year. The performance of the State Government in Plan implementation has been so commendable that the Union Planning Commission approved the outlay almost as proposed by the State Government.

Agriculture continues to receive special attention of the Government. In order to achieve early and sustained increase in agricultural production, the Training and Visit system has been introduced in eight districts, with effect from 1st September 1981 and the remaining districts will be covered from 1st July 1982. This is a project assisted by World Bank for a duration of five years and costing about Rs. 36 crores. The agricultural extension staff under the scheme will be given special training and they in turn, will provide uptodate and systematic advice on farming practices to the agriculturists. The marketing of agricultural produce is being taken care of by increased construction of rural godowns and integrated development of regulated markets. The Government has a proposal for starting integrated development of agricultural marketing with World Bank aid at a cost of Rs. 102 crores. The scheme involves upgrading of the existing regulated markets including storage godowns, opening of new regulated markets and markets for perishable goods and provision of warehousing and processing facilities. The project report is now pending with the Government of India.

With a view to co-ordinate the activities of the agricultural market committees, the Government has decided to give statutory status to the State Agricultural Marketing Board by amending the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1959. Encouragement has also been given for dairy development,

poultry and other animal husbandry activities. In order to augment the production of edible oils and to stabilise prices, the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Oilseeds Growers' Federation has been started during this financial year with the assistance of the National Dairy Development Board. The intention is to step up oilseeds production mainly by increasing the area under irrigated oilseed crops. Further, large scale production and distribution of quality coconut seedlings are also being continued with a view to achieve a breakthrough in edible oil production. The Government has decided to distribute, free of cost, one coconut seedling each to the poor who are given house-site pattas.

The Government's efforts to reduce the debt burden of agriculturists have been continued during the current financial year. The Government had decided on waiver of normal and penal interest on short-term agricultural loans to small farmers, who repaid the short-term agricultural loans in full before 30th June 1981. The Government had also agreed to refund the normal and penal interest paid after 1st April 1980 on short-term loans. Further, the penal interest on short-term loans to other farmers who repaid the principal in full with normal interest before 30th June 1981 was also to be waived. Though all these facilities were available only upto 30th June 1981, the Government, with a view to help the agriculturists, extended the period upto 31st December 1981. By the extension of these concessions, lakhs of farmers have benefitted.

Over the last few years, the Government has introduced progressive land reform measures to help the agriculturists. In pursuance of this policy, the State Legislature had passed the Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Second Amendment Bill, 1980 and had sent it to the Government of India for the assent of the President. The intention of passing of this Bill was to unearth transfers of lands effected between 1st January 1958 and 6th April 1960 which were done with a view to circumvent the proposed legislation on land ceiling. It was felt that consequent on this Bill becoming an Act, surplus lands would be available for distribution among landless agricultural persons. Unfortunately, the President's assent for this Bill has been withheld. The reasons for withholding the assent have not yet been communicated to the State. The State Government's aspirations to help numerous landless labourers by allotting these surplus lands have not been fulfilled as a result of the withholding of the assent to this Bill.

Under the scheme of updating registry started from 1st June 1979, a large portion of the work covering about 72,000 square kilometres still remains to be completed. As this scheme is beneficial to the agricul-

turists, in that they would correctly get to know their rights and would help them to get loans from financial institutions easily, the Government has decided to launch a crash programme to complete the scheme within two to three years.

This Government is deeply concerned over the steep rise in the prices of essential commodities required for the daily use of the people. The problem of prices is interlinked with the general economic policies of the country as a whole and it is the finding of economic experts that the solution to the problem of prices can essentially be found only by the Central Government. At the same time, the State Government is anxious to play its part in bringing down the prices. One aspect of the problem is that the cultivators should get a reasonable return which bears relation to the cost of cultivation. Another aspect of the problem is that the essential commodities should be available to the common man at reasonable prices. If these two interests are to be reconciled, it is imperative that intermediaries who indulge in commercial speculation are eliminated. Only under a system where all the producers come together in a co-operative set up, themselves undertake the responsibility of distribution and sale and share the profits that accrue, will we be able to ensure a situation, where the producer will not have to suffer a loss and the consumer will not have to undergo harassment. If we have to succeed in this, trade in essential commodities, which is largely in the hands of private dealers, should come under the co-operative fold. Endeavours will be made in the coming year to set up 'growers' co-operative sales societies, to achieve these objectives.

The self-sufficiency scheme which is designed to help the rural population is under implementation for the past two years now. During the current financial year, works are in progress in 150 blocks, after successfully implementing the scheme in 69 blocks as a first phase during 1980-81. In these 219 blocks, assets worth Rs. 136 crores will be created by the end of this financial year. About 18,000 kms. of link roads, 25,000 houses for Adi-dravidars, 2,717 school buildings will be completed in these 219 blocks. The remaining 159 blocks will be covered during the next financial year. In view of the benefits to the people from this scheme, the Government has decided to implement the self-sufficiency scheme in town panchayats and municipalities in the coming years. Preparatory steps have been taken in this regard.

Agricultural development is closely associated with power. The power position started improving from June, 1981 consequent to a favourable monsoon and power cut was lifted on 25th June, 1981. Peak demand restrictions on L.T. urban industries, grouping restrictions on rural loads/ agricultural consumers and peak hour restrictions on H.T. non-continuous process industries were removed from 1st

August, 1981. This is the first time when all these restrictions have been removed in toto; in previous years one restriction or other was always in force. The storage position in the hydel reservoirs is fairly comfortable, as a result the prospects of hydel power generation are likely to be good. The power position during the next few months till the onset of south-west monsoon is expected to be better than that during the corresponding period of 1981.

Generation of hydro-electric power has been tapped almost to the full extent possible in Tamil Nadu. The scope for further increase is very limited. This has forced the State Government to go in for the costly process of power generation through thermal sources. These schemes are capital intensive and it will be every helpful if the Government of India gives financial assistance to the State for starting them as it will be very difficult for the State Government to finance from its own resources thermal projects on any big scale. The Government of India has indicated during the discussions in the Power Ministers' Conference held in November last year, the acceptance in principle of the State starting new thermal schemes and also of expanding certain existing projects. The setting up of a thermal station at North Madras (5 × 210 MW.), extension of Mettur Thermal Project (2 × 210 MW.) and expansion of Tuticorin Project (1 × 210 MW. + 1 × 500 MW.) are the schemes under consideration.

As mentioned earlier, the State Government has utilised almost all possible sources of hydel power and is also considering various schemes for thermal power generation. In view of the difficulties involved in transport of coal over long distances for the thermal plants, the State Government has suggested that a second atomic power station may be set up in Tamil Nadu. It has also suggested Kudankulam in Tirunelveli district as one of the suitable sites for setting up the plant. We hope that the committee set up by the Government of India to select the site will soon take a favourable decision. Government is examining possibilities of putting up an integrated power and desalination plant to provide potable water and utilise thermal energy released in the process to generate electricity.

The State Electricity Board is having very serious financial difficulties. This has been mainly due to the poor financial returns. Time and again the Union Planning Commission has been urging the State Government to revise electricity tariff which is one of the lowest in the country. The Planning Commission has emphasised that unless the financial resources of the State Electricity Board are strengthened, modernisation of equipment, implementation of plan projects and maintenance of the existing installations and transmission lines would suffer very badly. Increased power generation is essential for development of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. This can be done

only if the resources of the Electricity Board are improved through higher returns, which in turn, can be achieved only by the revision of electricity tariff. The State Government has been assisting the Electricity Board through a heavy dose of financial assistance running to hundreds of crores of rupees in the last few years, to keep the activities of the Electricity Board at a reasonable level. But it will be impossible for the Government to continue the financial assistance indefinitely because it is bound to have serious adverse effects on implementation of plan programmes and other developmental activities. Particularly when the input cost is rising regularly every year, as a result of the Government of India increasing the railway freight and oil price, apart from imposing higher taxes on various commodities needed by the Electricity Board, the State Government is left with no alternative except to revise the existing low electricity tariff. The Government has decided to permit private industrialists to take up generation of power for their own consumption. The Government would also like to consider any proposal for generation of power by private enterpreneurs, if it can be done profitably.

The dispute relating to the sharing of Cauvery waters has still not been resolved. On the suggestion of the Government of India, bilateral talks have been held between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka on this issue. But unfortunately, the talks have not been conclusive. It is hoped that Government of India would use their good offices to find a fair and equitable solution to this long standing issue. Recently, the Government of India have decided to hold discussions to resolve this problem. The Government hopes that a final and equitable decision would be taken in this conference as a result of the discussions and that the quantity of water now used for irrigation in Tamil Nadu would be assured. The State Government will also continue to request the Government of India to act early on the recommendations of the Technical Committee constituted by them to examine the feasibility of diversion of surplus of waters of the west-flowing rivers in Kerala to provide irrigation facilities to Tamil Nadu.

While the inter-State river problems are pending settlement, the State Government is doing its utmost to improve irrigation facilities within Tamil Nadu. Since the major portion of surface irrigation potential has been utilised the emphasis is now on modernisation of irrigation systems for which an outlay of Rs. 48·59 crores exists in the Sixth Plan. Around Rs. 12 crores are also expected to be spent on special minor irrigation programme and desilting-*cum*-reclamation schemes during the Sixth Plan period. While everything possible has been done to put the available water to maximum use, the State Government is exploring the possibilities of diverting to the dry areas of Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram

districts, the flood waters in certain seasons now flowing into the sea. Investigations have already been started by the Public Works Department in this regard.

For the rapid development of industries in the State, special programmes and incentives have been evolved recently to attract establishment of new industrial units in Tamil Nadu. The Industries Minister recently visited the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat for explaining to the entrepreneurs in those areas, about the availability of various incentives, skilled manpower, infrastructural facilities, etc., in Tamil Nadu. The Government has also announced special concessions to facilitate the growth of industries. The existing ceiling on interest-free sales tax loans to industries has been increased from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore. Industrial complexes are being developed at Cuddalore, Pudukkottai, Manamadurai. Tuticorin and Gummudipoondi where new industrial units will enjoy the facility of exemption from power cut for the first five years. A subsidy is also being given for creation of new assets in the field of Electronics, Drugs and ancillary automobile industries. It is hoped that these attractive concessions would enthuse industrialists to start new ventures in Tamil Nadu.

In order to equip the educated persons better for employment, the Government has been implementing schemes giving importance to technical education. In the current financial year, an Engineering College has been established at Tirunelveli and Six Polytechnics have started functioning in various parts of the State. During the Bharathi Centenary celebrations, the Government has announced its decision to set up a Polytechnic for Women in Ettayapuram area in Tirunelveli district. These technical institutions would provide necessary infrastructure for industrial development in Tamil Nadu.

Apart from the importance given to technical education, the State Government is also encouraging general education. Legislations for constituting Bharathiar University at Coimbatore and Bharathidasan University at Tiruchirappalli have been passed and the assent of the President has also been obtained for these Acts. Preliminary action for acquisition of land and for identifying the various requirements of the Universities has already been started. As Honourable members are aware, a Tamil University has been inaugurated on the 15th of September, 1981 at Thanjavur. It is also proposed to start a Women's University in Tamil Nadu. The Government is taking steps to start a University at Karaikudi as promised by Late Anna combining all the educational institutions there.

In consonance with Arignar Anna's two language formula, the Government has been taking active steps to establish Tamil as the official language and adopt the language in all the wings of the Government. In pursuit

of this policy, the Government has ordered that from today all judgements, decrees and orders in Civil Courts will be written in Tamil.

The recent under-sea archaeological exploration conducted by the State Archaeological Department in collaboration with the National Institute of Oceanography off the coast of Kaveripoompattinam has yielded interesting results. The survey which extended upto Tranquebar (Taranganpadi) seems to suggest that there are buildings and ship wrecks at Poompuhar and Vanagiri areas, lying submerged under the sea. It is proposed to continue this survey.

The State Government will be launching from the coming academic year, a massive screening programme to detect the incidence of leprosy among school going children. At the time of admission to schools, children will be checked up for any incidence of this disease and suitable curative measures will be taken.

In pursuance of the progressive labour policy of this Government, a number of legislative measures were introduced for the benefit of the workers. The Minimum Wages (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 1981 came into force on 1st October 1981. The Tamil Nadu Payment of Subsistence Allowance Act, 1981 and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Establishments (Conferment of Permanent Status to Workmen) Act, 1981 came into force with effect from 1st January 1982. The Tamil Nadu Handloom Workers (Conditions of Employment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1981 will also be brought into effect as soon as the rules are finalised. For the Industrial Disputes (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 1981, the President's assent is awaited. The State Government proposes to extend Employees' State Insurance Scheme to the districts of Dharmapuri and the Nilgiris and widen its coverage in some other areas.

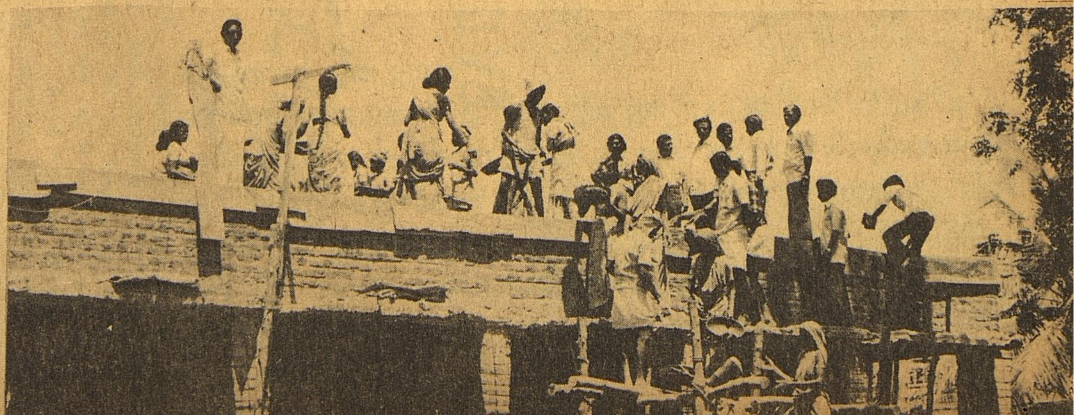
For improving the socio-economic conditions of the Adi-Dravidars, the Government is implementing the Special Component Plan since 1980-81. During the last financial year, the size of the Plan was of the order of Rs. 71.64 crores and in the current year it is Rs. 83.04 crores and during the next financial year it will be Rs. 114.04 crores. About 1.67 lakhs of Adi-Dravidar families will be covered during the next financial year. Under Special Central Assistance, income generating schemes for Adi-Dravidars are being implemented. During the last financial year, the sum earmarked was Rs. 9.56 crores while during the current financial year it is expected to be Rs. 10 crores. During 1982-83, the Special Central Assistance is likely to be of the order of Rs. 15 crores. Apart from socio-economic measures for improving the life-style of Adi-Dravidars, the Government is also establishing special courts to try offences against Adi-Dravidars under the P.C.R Act. The Government is firmly resolved to improve the living conditions of the Adi-Dravidars in the State through various schemes as mentioned above.

Many schemes for the benefit of the Backward Classes are now under implementation in Tamil Nadu. Apart from educational concessions, measures have

also been taken for their economic development. The Government has recently formed the Backward Classes Economic Development Corporation to finance schemes and trade activities taken up by them. During last year, the Government had announced that preference would be given to widows in indigent circumstances for employment in medical institutions. Seats have also been reserved in professional and arts Colleges for them. A proposal to give suitable preference for admission in educational institutions and in employment to the children born of inter-caste marriages is now under consideration. During last year, which was the year of the physically handicapped, various schemes for the benefit of physically handicapped had been started. Certain specific posts in Government and Local Body institutions have been reserved for the physically handicapped persons. They have been accorded suitable priority for sponsorship by the employment exchanges against State Government vacancies. Three per cent of vacancies in public services and educational institutions have been reserved for the physically handicapped. Though the year of the physically handicapped is over, schemes for their welfare will continue to be implemented.

With the intention of holding the elections to Panchayats early, the Government had made arrangements for conducting them by the end of January this year. After consulting leaders of all political parties, the Government had taken a policy decision to reserve the seats for Adi-Dravidars and women and a suitable Ordinance was promulgated. As a result of the stay granted by the High Court on certain Writ Petitions, the elections could not be held. As soon as the Court clearance is obtained, the Government is ready to conduct the elections.

The development schemes implemented by this Government in the last few years contain many programmes like expansion of irrigation facilities, increasing the production of oilseeds, implementation of land ceiling laws and compilation of land records, implementation of programmes for development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, maximisation of power generation, augmentation of primary health care facilities, control of leprosy, implementation of programmes for the welfare of women and expansion of public distribution system all of which form part of the twenty point programme recently announced by the Prime Minister of India. The State Government welcomes this twenty point programme which aims at improving the condition



of the poorer and weaker sections of the Society. This Government will give all its support to the Government of India in the active implementation of this Programme.

The law and order situation in the State has been satisfactory. The activities of extremists have been curbed and the anti-social elements have been kept under control. The Government has started various projects for the welfare of Policemen. Construction of houses for Policemen through the Police Housing Corporation is one of these projects. About 150 acres have been taken possession initially in Navalpattu village in Tiruchirappalli district, where about 700 houses will be constructed. Suitable lands in other parts of the State are also being located by the Police Housing Corporation for putting up additional houses for the Policemen. A new scheme has been introduced during Pongal this year, for award of the Chief Minister's Police Medals to Constables and Head Constables who have rendered meritorious services. About 1,500 Police Constables and Head Constables will benefit from this Scheme, which provides for the award of a medal and a monthly allowance.

As mentioned by me earlier, the State has gone through a trying period because of the severe drought during the last year. But the situation is changing now, due to favourable monsoons which have helped in filling up the various tanks and reservoirs throughout the State, excepting a few isolated pockets. My Government has been doing its best through various socio-economic policies to improve the living conditions of the people of the State.

I hope the deliberations of this House will be useful and constructive and contribute to the progress of the State. I wish you success in your endeavours.

Vanakkam.

JOINT SESSION OF THE TAMIL NADU LEGISLATURE

Thiruvalluvar Year 2013—Thunmathi—Thai 19
Ist February 1982

Thiruvalluvar Day.

The proceedings in civil courts in Tamil Nadu will be conducted in Tamil from February 1, Thiru M.G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister accounced.

He commended the suggestion made earlier by Kundrakudi Adigal for framing and implementing laws based on the Tirukkural. The Government would try to implement this plea within its powers, he said.

The Chief Minister was participating in the Tiruvalluvar Day celebrations organised by the State Government at Valluvar Kottam.

He regretted that the Tirukkural should have been interpreted in so many ways by different authors leading to a lot of confusion. If the law permitted, the Government would consider banning such interpretations.

He welcomed the plea of Kundrakudi Adigal for the creation of a Centre, where Tamil savants and scholars could sit together and give a uniform interpretation of the immortal preachings of the Poet Saint.

The Chief Minister said the Government had no response from the Centre to its suggestion to make Tirukkural a national literature.

The Centre, he said, had earlier expressed its inability to do so on the ground that there were various other works and that it would not be proper to accord national status to Tirukkural.

The Tamil Nadu Government would however press its plea. The Government had recently sent a letter to the Centre along with a copy of Tirukkural translated in English.

The Chief Minister deplored that there should be opposition from some quarters even to the steps taken by the Government for developing Tamil and helping Tamil scholars in penury.

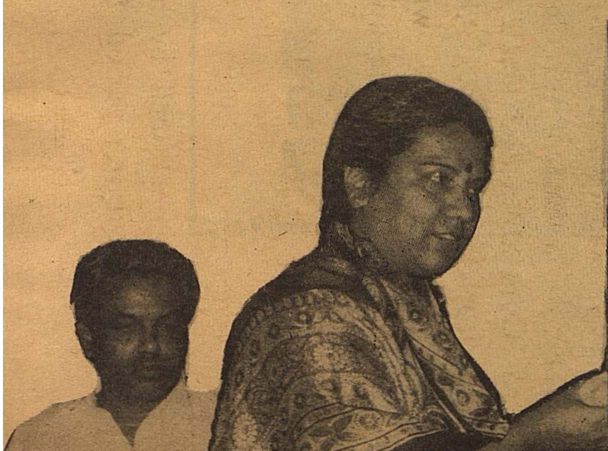
He instanced how the conduct of the fifth World Tamil Conference and the creation of the Tamil University were sought to be criticised.

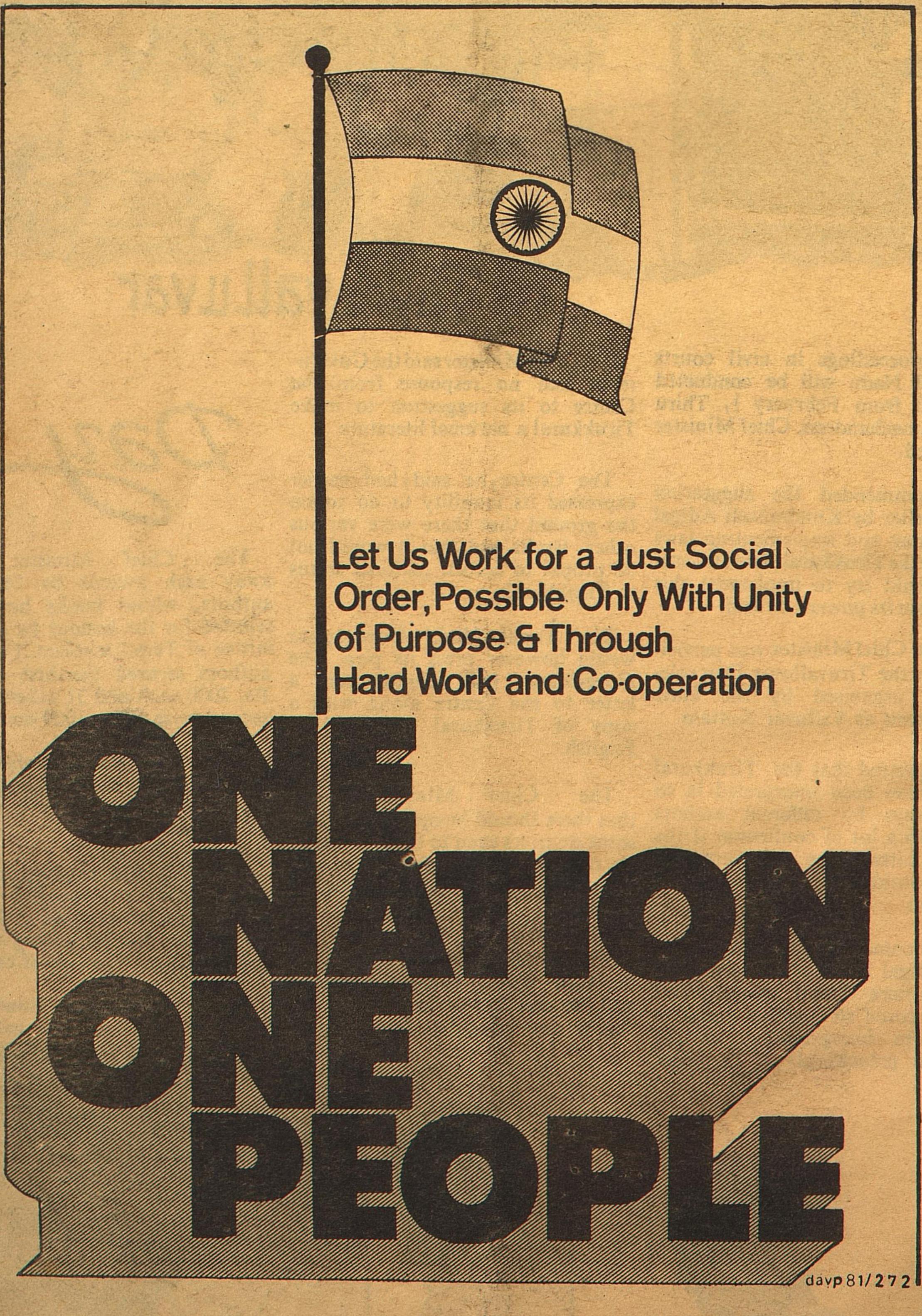
The Chief Minister gave away cash awards to 76 Tamil authors, whose books have been selected for the honour by a committee of Tamil scholars. Forty five authors secured the first prize of Rs. 2000 each and 31 others got the second prize of Rs. 1000 each.

Thiru V.R. Nedunchezhian, Finance Minister, said Tirukkural was peerless and no other work had such a universal acclaim.

Thiru C. Aranganayagam Education Minister, appealed to the teachers in schools and colleges to help spread oneness among students and stamp out the evil of casteism.

Thiru C. Ramdas, Education Secretary, welcomed the gathering.




Let Us Work for a Just Social Order, Possible Only With Unity of Purpose & Through Hard Work and Co-operation
ONE
NATION
ONE
PEOPLE
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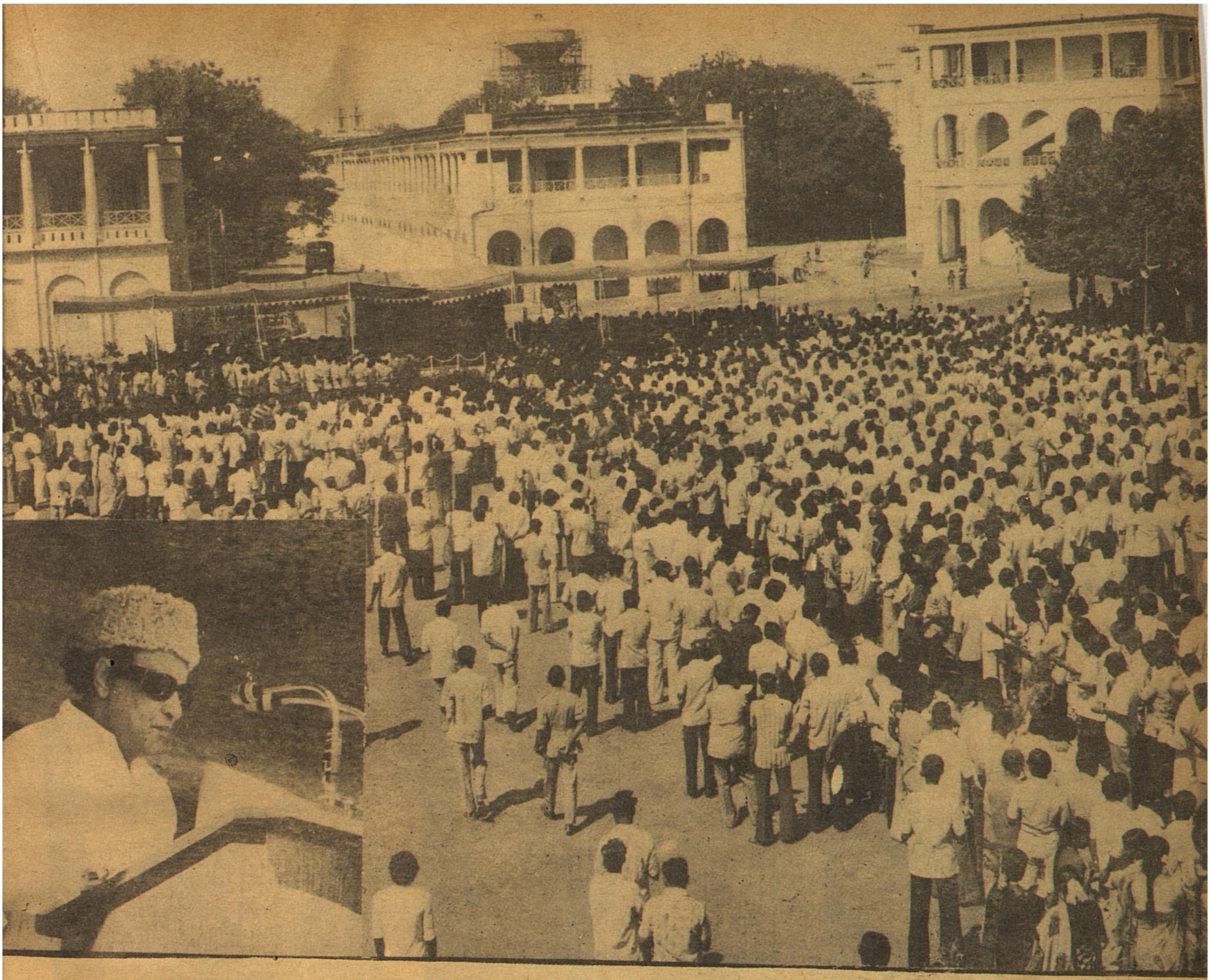
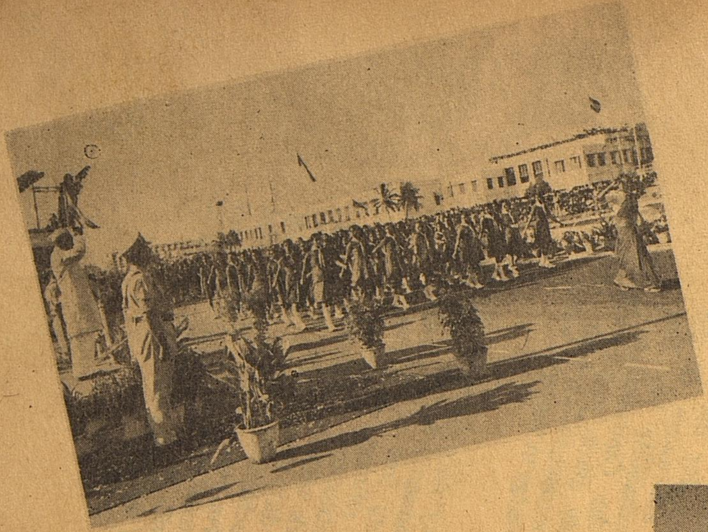
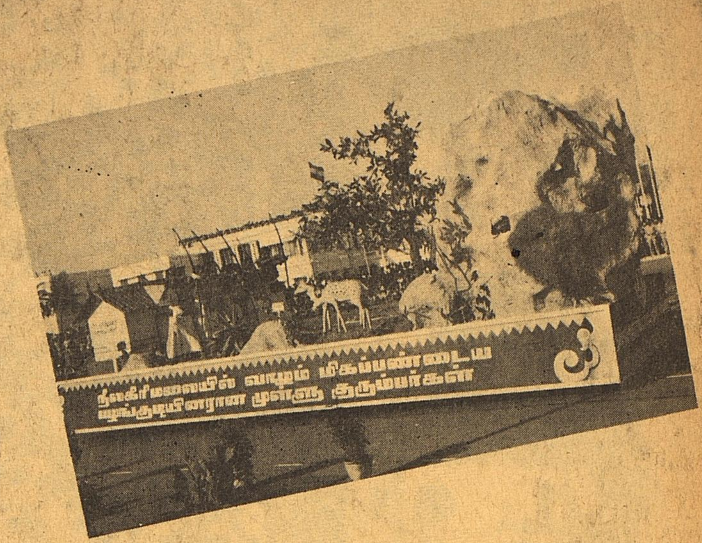


martyr's DAY pledge

"As an Indian Citizen who has a deep regard for the Indian Constitution, I am aware of the fact that untouchability has been outlawed by the Constitution. I hereby solemnly affirm that I will not practise untouchability with or without knowledge in thought, word or deed.

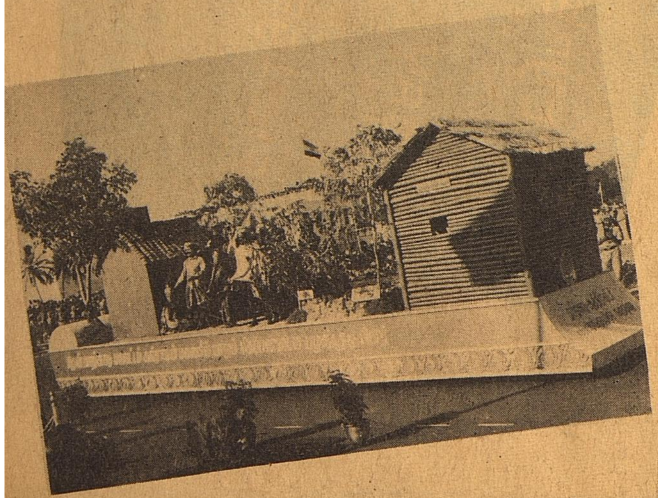
It is my duty to work truthfully and honestly for the creation of a society free of difference in caste and religion, as envisaged in the Constitution. Moreover, I shall work with the realisation that it is our duty to eradicate the feeling of untouchability amongst the people who have been subjected to the evil of untouchability. I Pledge that this will be a permanent evidence of my regard for the Indian Constitution."

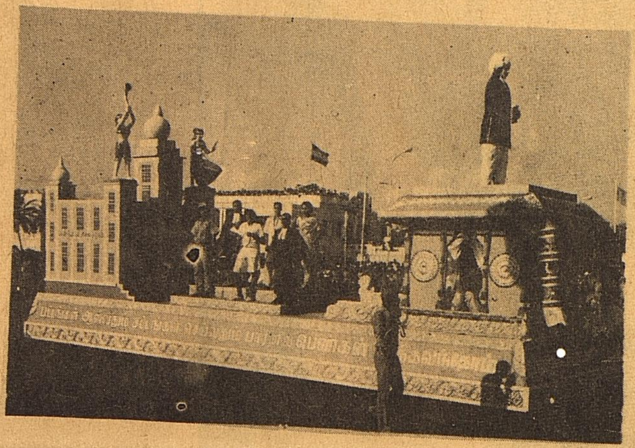


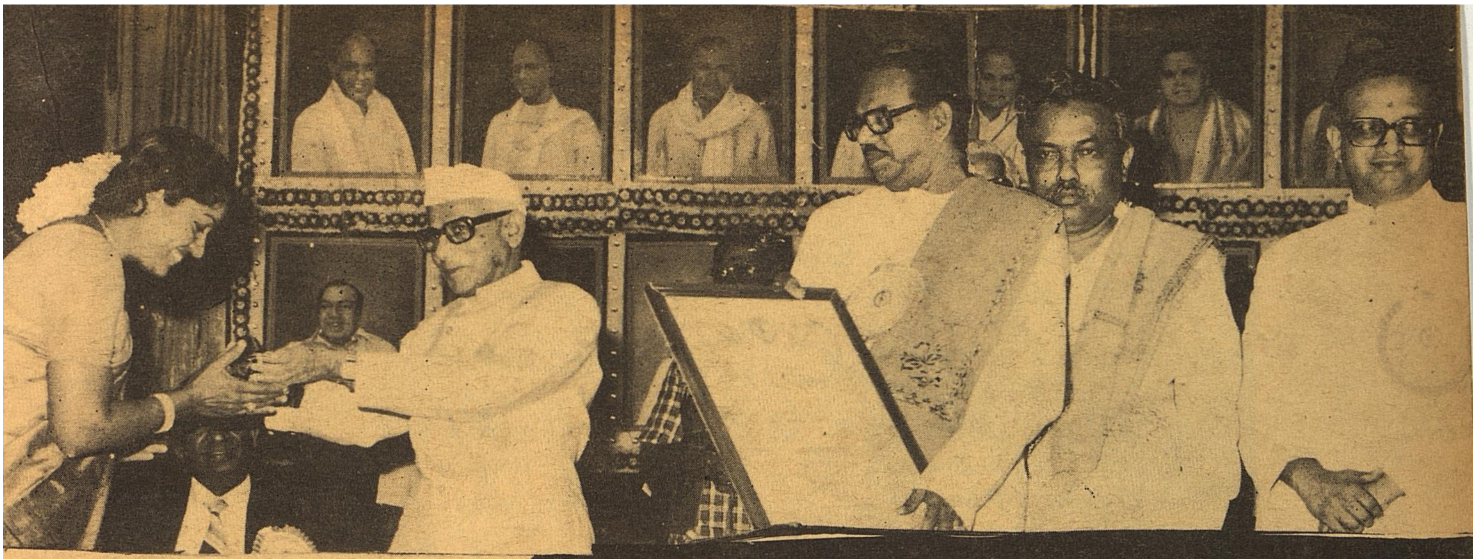


Republic day

26-1-1982







Artistes Honoured

The "Kalaimamani" Award function was held at Kalaivanar Arangam on 26-1-'82 organised by the Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram.

Thiru Sadiq Ali, Governor of Tamilnadu presided over the function and presented gold pendants to 33 artistes who were awarded "Kalaimamani" title.

Thiru V. R. Nedunchezhian, Finance Minister, conferred the title and unveiled portraits of 14 eminent artistes.

Thiru C. Aranganayagam, Education Minister presented cash award of Rs. 1,000 each to 12 artistes, who are now in indigent circumstances.

Thiru P. R. Gokulakrishnan acting Chief Justice and Chairman of the Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram welcomed the gathering.

Thiru D. V. Narayanaswami, Secretary of the Mandram read the report.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor Thiru Sadiq Ali said that the Government has to play a helpful role in promoting arts. The Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram, apart from giving awards to artistes, has to its credit numerous other activities to foster arts. It has helped to revive and preserve folk music and dance in our State. It has published some rare books in music, dance and drama. It helps institutions which offer training facilities. It has so far honoured over 500 artistes.

The Finance Minister announced that the Government of Tamil Nadu proposes to give monthly pension to 100 more artistes in the current year. He disclosed that 1010 artistes were already being given pension involving an annual budgetary allocation of Rs. 21 lakhs. He also said that the pension amount has been raised from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150.

He said the Mandram, on behalf of the State Government had so far conferred "Kalaimamani" titles to 571 artistes including the 33 for this year.

The Education Minister emphasised the importance of research in the arts. He disclosed that such research would get top priority in the new universities that had come up in the state.

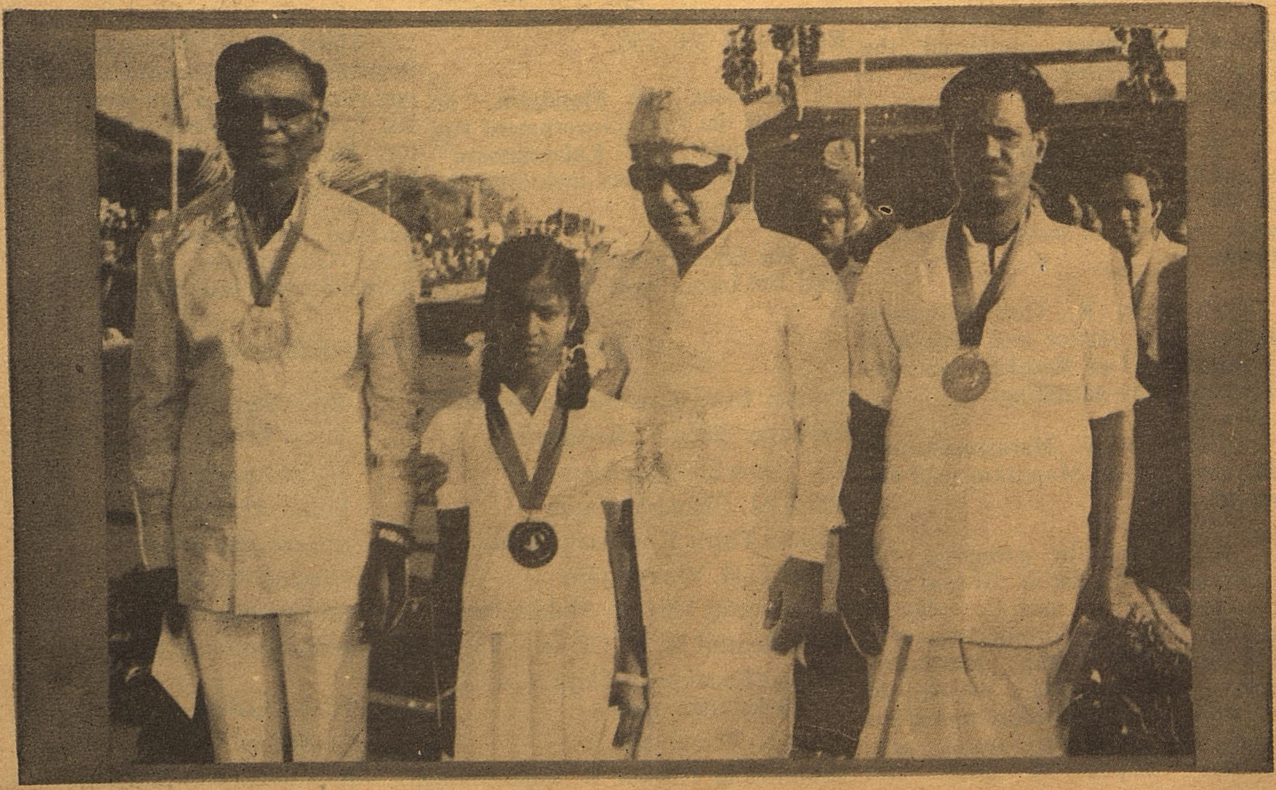
Thiru D. V. Narayanaswami, Secretary of the Mandram said till last year 71 artistes had received the Rs. 1,000 cash award. Film Director, Thiru S. Durai, Musicologist, Salem S. Jayalakshmi, Litterateur, Purisai S. Murugesa Mudaliar all thanked the Mandram and the State Government on behalf of Kalaimamani holders.

KALAIMAMANI AWARDEES (1981—82)

Purisai Thiru S. Murugesa Mudaliar	Eyal (Tamil Literature)
Madurai Thiru N. Krishnan	Vocal Artiste
Dr. Salem S. Jayalakshmi	Musicologist
Thiru M. Chandrasekaran	Violin Artiste
Nagore Thiru T. S. Ambi Aiyar	Mridangam Artiste
Thiru T. H. Vinayakram	Ghatam Artiste
Pudukkottai Thiru S. Mahadevan	Muharsingh Artiste
Thiru Senthil M. K. Chinna Subbiah	Nadaswaram Artiste
Vadapathimangalm Thiru V.N.G. Dakshinamoorthy	Thavil Artiste
Thiru K. Veeramani	Devotional Music Artiste
Swamimalai Thiru S. K. Rajarathinam	Bharatanatyam Teacher
Selvi Chamundeeswari	Bharatanatyam Artiste
Tmt. Abhayambika	Bharatanatyam Artiste (Special)
Thiru T. G. Pavu Pillai	Bharathanatyam Mridangam Artiste
Thiru Rajaraja A. P. Perumalraj	Drama Actor
Selvi S. R. Sivakami	Drama Actress
Thiru S. K. Karikkol Raj	Drama Comic Actor

Pattukkottai Thiru Kumaravel	..	Drama Playwright
Thiru C. V. Rangaswami	..	Drama Producer
Prof. N. Sundaram	..	Drama Mono Actor
Thiru Srikanth	..	Film Actor
Selvi A. Sridevi	..	Film Actress
Thiru Ravindar	..	Film Playwright
Thiru Thanjaivanan	..	Film Lyricist
Thiru Durai	..	Film Director
Tmt. T. V. Rathinam	..	Film Playback Artiste
Trichy Thiru Loganathan	..	Film Playback Artiste
Thiru M. V. Krishnappa	..	Musical Drama Actor
Tmt. T. S. Ranganayaki	..	Musical Drama Actress
Thiru A. S. Thangavel	..	Musical Drama Lyricist
Thiru N. M. K. Shanmugasundara Kavirayar	..	Musical Drama Actor
Thiru T. K. Appukutti Baghavathar	..	Musical Drama Mridangam Artiste
Thiru N. Ayyammal	..	Folk Artiste.
Sabha	..	Sri Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha, (Vani Mahal) Madras.

—G. Bhaskaran.



MEDALS PRESENTED

The Chief Minister Thiru M.G. Ramachandran presented "Anna medals for gallantry" to three persons including a girl. The award carries a medal worth Rs. 1,000 and a cash certificate for Rs. 1,000.

The recipients are Thiru S. Durairaj, Revenue Inspector, Ramanathapuram, Thiru T. N. Muthiah Velu Thevar and Selvi C. Vallirani.

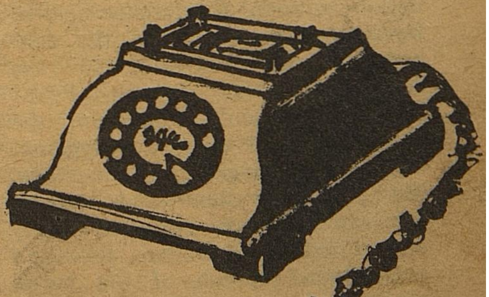
Centennial

OF MADRAS TELEPHONES

Thiru C. M. Stephen, Union Minister for Communications released a Rs. 2 commemorative stamp album brought out by the department to mark the centenary of the telephones and presented the album to Thiru G. Lakshmanan, the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Minister said that with his knowledge of the working of the various telephone systems in the country, he would give the first prize to Tamil Nadu and Madras Telephones. 'The people here are a dedicated lot.'

The Governor Thiru Sadiq Ali released th centenary volume and presented the first copy to Thiru M. A. Muthiah Chettiar.



Sarojini Naidu

AND THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN

DR. R. SARASA BHARATI,
M.D., Ph.D., F.I.C.A.,
Professor of Neuropathology,
Madras Medical College.

Sarojini Naidu was already established' as a great poet and national patriot before she took prime interest in the emancipation of women. Her childhood and upbringing adolescence under the watchful eye of tolerant parents who held cosmopolitan views no doubt shaped and influenced her.

At the 18th session of the Indian National Conference held in Bombay a great part of the deliberations were devoted to the emancipation of women. Problems in women's education, the social status of women, polygamy, widow remarriage, child marriage, the purdha system and careers for women were discussed freely and forcibly. Ramabai Ranade's impassioned speech of the ladies gathering, made a lasting impression on Sarojini who gave no speech but recited a poem 'ode to India' which was highly appreciated. Very soon, writes Sengupta, because of her keen social consiousness and her dynamic energy and her desire to right all wrongs, Sarojini Naidu became a leader of Indian women. It was a time in the first decade of the twentieth century, when the position of Indian women was anything but happy. Sarojini with her brilliant oratory and poetry caused a stir and upheaval which resounded throughout India.

She addressed gatherings of men and pleaded with them to give their wives the freedom which was their birthright and which indeed they had possessed in ancient India. It was Sarojini who told vast audiences of people that women must help men and be their companions and not remain slaves. It was almost entirely due to her untiring efforts that finding a national women's movement was founded in India which became so powerful that even the statutory commission later admitted that the women's movement in India holds the key to progress, and the results it may achieve are incalculably great.

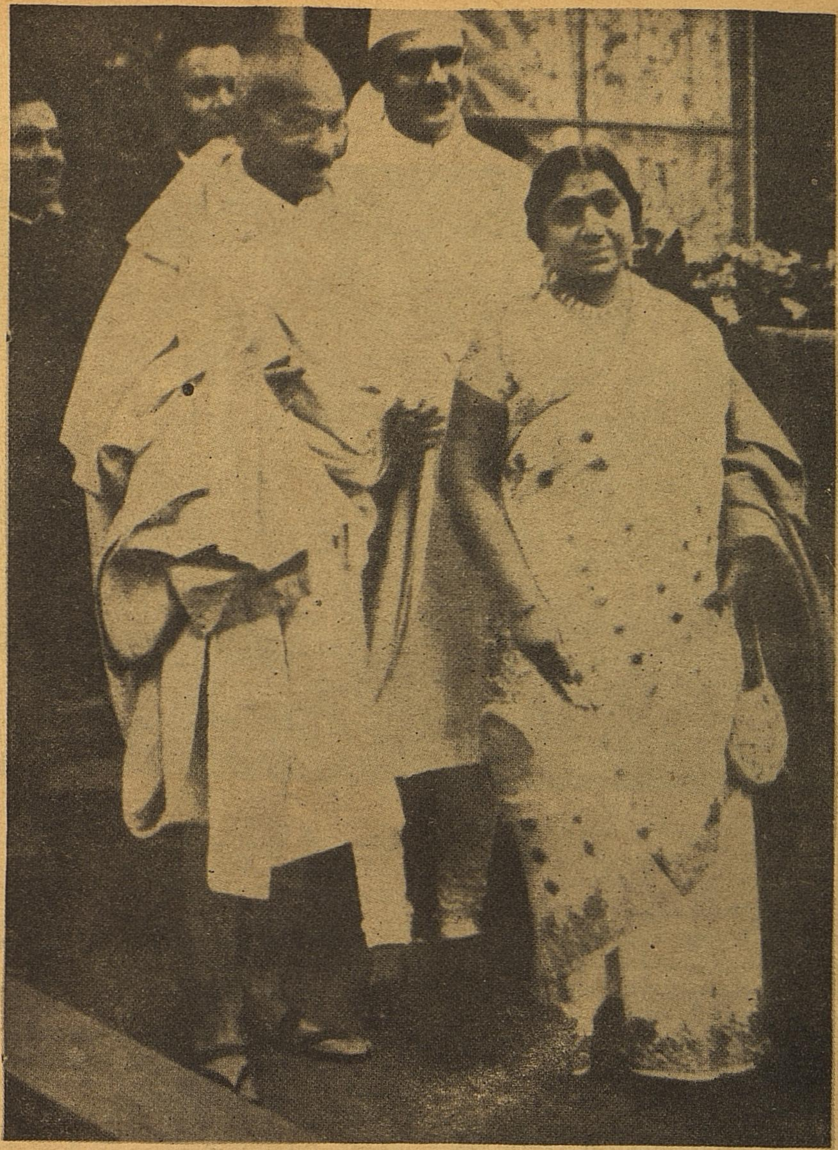
In 1906, Sarojini addressed the Indian Social Conference on 'The Education of Indian Women'. This roused considerable interest and from then the fiery passionate speeches of Sarojini favouring women's education, women's skills and talent in various fields were heard at continuously throughout the length and breadth of India.

She charged the Indian youth to restore to women their ancient rights for without the active co-operation of women at all points of progress, all their congresses and conferences were in vain. In all her many speeches, she fearlessly condemned evil customs, such as suttee, infant marriage, vare sulkam, kanya sulkam, nautches, extravagant expenditure on social and religious occasions and the glaring disparity of age between girls and men when marriages were arranged.

Large appreciative audiences attended her speeches and were enthralled both by her oratory as well as the profound knowledge she exhibited. For, the first time in March 1908 muslim women attended her lectures many behind screen. The first march consisting of 500 Hindu, Muslim and Parsi girls through the streets of Bombay in aid of their cause was also held.

In 1908, at the session of the Indian National Social Conference held in Madras, Sarojini moved a resolution on Hindu widows preventing their disfigurement, providing them with educational facilities, and the commencement of a widows Home and even encouragement of widow remarriage.

During this period, the first ever ladies conference was held in Madras where over 700 Indian women assembled to have and discuss problems faced by Indian women.



During the time of growth of the Freedom Movement in the country, the women's Movement of India was conceived of and sponsored from its conception by Sarojini. Margaret Consius guided by Annie Besant inaugurated this in Madras in 1917, and the Women's Indian Association was born. This association afforded a platform for women to air their grievences and demand their rights. The slogan of equality between men and women was launched and a battle indeed was fought for this. Soon a deputation held discussions with Mr. Montague, the Secretary of State for India. The clamour for vote for women was made and a non violent fight for a vote continued for long periods of time. In 1918, Sarojini moved a resolution on Women's franchise at the 8th Session of the Bombay Provincial Council at Bijapur and a deputation waited on Montague asking for women's rights to be recognised and franchise given to women. Despite the force in strength and the impassioned plea made year after, with many discussions held, the franchise for women was not easy to obtain. At the first all India Women's Conference held in January 1927, delegates from all constituent conferences met to focus women's demands with Sarojini being its friend, philosopher and guide from its inception. So intense was the feeling that even the conference was named the 'All India Women's Conference on Educational Reform.' It was non-political in character, free to discuss all questions with special reference to problems concerning women and children. Thus Sarojini played a large part in channelising the struggle of women into one united effort with the fight for freedom with the achievement of one, the other was inevitable and it was entirely due to Sarojini that the women's movement was put on its footing.

Needless to add that when Mahathma Gandhi came to the scene at the helm of affairs to fight for India's freedom, he gave his blessings and full support for the women's movement. He went to the extent of saying that unless the women came forward to spearhead the freedom struggle, Swaraj will never be obtained. Sarojini accepted Gandhiji as her master and ever afterwords worked together both for the emancipation of the country and for the rights of women without which freedom will be meaningless. The country and especially the women of India can justly be proud of this great lady who gave practically her all and used her God given talents for the women and weaker sections of society in all at a particularly needy period in the long history of India.

REHABILITATION OF LEPROUS BEGGARS

World Leprosy Day is being celebrated every year on January 30 reminding how Mahatma Gandhi was endearing himself to the task of treating leprosy with his own hands. While the dreaded disease disfigures most of its victims, some do come out successful thanks to efforts of rehabilitation taken by the Government of Tamilnadu and Philanthropists.

The Government of Tamil Nadu have established ten Rehabilitation Homes at Paranur, Chengalpattu District, Ulundurpet, South Arcot District, Bargur, Dharmapuri District, Pudukkottai, Pudukkottai District, Vinnapalli, Periyar District, Manayeripatti, Thanjavur District, Y. Pudupatti, Madurai District, Mallavadi, North Arcot District, Selliampatti, Dharmapuri District, Deviakurichi, Salem District.

The main philosophy underlining the establishment of these homes is to cure the beggars suffering from Leprosy and rehabilitate them, so that when they are discharged from the homes, they can lead a life of dignity and self-reliance without being a burden either on the society or on their family.

Each home can accommodate 400 adults and 25 children. Leprosy beggars are admitted on a voluntary basis and when they are convicted for begging. If in a married couple, one spouse is suffering from leprosy and took to begging the other spouse also will be admitted in the home.

Inmates are discharged when they are certified non-infective and are able to work and earn their own livelihood, also when inmates misbehave repeatedly and are a threat to the smooth running of the home.

Facilities in the homes—

Inmates of the home are given free boarding, lodging, clothing medical facilities and vocational training. Arrangements have also been made for games, screening of films, library facilities and for variety entertainments.

Each adult is given a diet at a cost of Rs. 2.30 per day and children at Rs. 1.15 and Rs. 3.77 is being spent for the T. B. Leprosy patients. The diet includes a breakfast, lunch, evening tea and dinner. Butter milk is provided daily. Mutton is provided once in a week. Sick patients and T. B. patients get special diet. On special occasions such as Independence day, Gandhiji's Birth day, etc. special diet is served when extra cost of Re. 1 is permitted per inmate.

The homes are constructed in four blocks with rooms for families in the ground floor and dormitories in the first floor for single person (Bargur and Ulundurpet homes are constructed in single floor pucca sheds).

The inmates are given two sets of clothes per year. This is usually distributed during Pongal and Independence Day.

Besides food and free treatment, each inmate is provided with free clothing., oil, soap, tooth powder, mat, chappals, etc. The patients who are suffering from eye defects are entitled to free supply of spectacles and dark glasses. Recently Government issued orders for the supply of linen to the children of the inmates in Government Rehabilitation Homes twice a year, *i.e.*, on the Independance day and Pongal day.

There is sufficient scope in each Home for entertainment also. The Government have sanctioned a recurring expenditure of Rs. 200 towards sports and games in each home. The Government have also

sanctioned the supply of two daily newspapers and books worth Rs. 250 for each home per year. In order to encourage the artistic talents of inmates of the homes, the Government have also sanctioned the supply of musical instruments to the tune of Rs. 400 to each home.

The inmates are also supplied with Adult Literary Books to help them to improve their level of literacy and general education.

During the days of National importance the inmates are given special diet including sweets. On the days of Anniversary of the Homes, the inmates are enabled to stage dramas and variety entertainments.

Healthy children of the inmates are admitted in the nearby school and for the purpose, the Government have sanctioned an initial expenditure of Rs. 75 per child towards dress, etc..

Recently Government have sanctioned incurring of expenditure as detailed below for each school going child in the Government Rehabilitation Homes for subsequent years of study :

Rs. 20 (Rupees Twenty only) for second standard to seventh standard Rs. 120 (For 6 years).

Rs. 30 (Rupees thirty only) for 8th standard to 9th standard (Rupees sixty for 2 years).

Rs. 50 (Rupees Fifty only) for 10th Standard.

Rs. 75 (Rupees seventy five only) for Eleventh and 12th Standard (Rs. 150 for two years).

Medical facilities—

Inmates are given medical treatment free of charge. In each home there are two Medical Officers, two Staff Nurses, one Laboratory Technician, one Physiotherapist and one Auxiliary Nurse Midwife to attend to the Medical needs of inmates. In addition to leprosy, all other general ailments are also treated. Patients requiring hospitalisation are admitted in the wards where there is provision for 10 in patients and treated on special sick diet. There is a fully equipped operation theatre in all the Homes except the homes at Bargur and Ulundurpet. Surgery on claw hands, drop foot and other physical defects are being done at Pudupatti.

Inmates are referred to Scheffelin Leprosy Research and Training Centre, Karigari for provision of Special shoes and Government have sanctioned Rs. 300 per annum for each home to meet the expenditure in connection with the provision of special shoes, artificial limbs to the inmates referred to Scheffelin Leprosy Research and Training Centre, Karigiri.

Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy :

There is one Physiotherapist attached to each home. He is provided with necessary Physiotherapy equipments viz., Electric Stimulator and wax bath. Inmates who are in need of Physiotheraphy are attended to by the Physiotherapist.

The Government have sanctioned the appointment of three Occupational Therapists attached to the home at Paranur, Pudukottai and Deviakurichi. The post at Paranur only has been filled up. He will be visiting the nearest homes and help the inmates in vocational training under the guidance of the Chief Occupational Therapist who is attached to the Headquarters at Madras.

Rehabilitation Measures :

An important feature of the scheme is rehabilitation. Able bodied inmates are given training in cloth weaving, mat weaving, shoe making, tailoring, agriculture, carpentary etc., in the homes and they are expected to be discharged and rehabilitated after certain period so that they can live on their own independently without resorting to begging. So far 95 inmates have been rehabilitated.

The Government have established an Envelope Making unit in the rehabilitation home at Pudukottai. The Envelope making unit started functioning from 1st February 1978. One post of Junior Binder has been filled up by appointing an inmate of the home. The 2nd post has been filled up by appointing the candidate sponsored by the Employment Exchange.

The Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 51,000 per annum towards the purchase of seeds manure and agricultural implements, payment of wages etc., and undertaking large scale agricultural operation in the vacant lands in the following five Rehabilitation Homes :—

	Rs.
Bargur	5,000
Mallavadi	4,000
Pudukottai	2,000
Vinnapalli	5,000
Deviakurichi	35,000
Total	51,000

Rehabilitation Activities.—

The Rehabilitation activities mainly include farming, mat weaving, cloth weaving, tailoring, shoe making, carpentry, Rural Textile Centre, Sericulture and Rope making. Totally there are 138 looms functioning in all the ten Rehabilitation Homes. There are 77 mat looms functioning and mats are being sold to District Hospitals and other Government Institutions. The Rural Textiles Centre, started recently at Y. Pudupatti are producing roughly 10,000 hanks of yarn every month while the Rural Textile Centre at Ulundurpet produces about 9,000 hanks monthly. There are 34 tailoring machines in the Rehabilitation Homes. The garments that are being issued to the inmates twice a year being stitched by the inmates of the homes.

Modern Factory-*cum*-Workshop started by the Swedish Red Cross Rehabilitation Industries, Katpadi, at Rehabilitation home, Paranur have trained 23 inmates who were employed by them in their own industries at Tiruchirappalli and Katpadi. The training imparted in this work shop helps the inmates to develop self confidence and independence under strict discipline.

As the inmates found it difficult to take the yarn outside and warp them at high cost, warping machines have since been purchased and installed at the following homes and action is being taken to provide sizing accesssories.

Ulundurpet, Mallavadi, Paranur, Y. Pudupatti, Manayeripatti, Pudukottai.

In the Rehabilitation Home, Deviakurichi, the Administrative Officer has obtained Rs. 500 as donation from the Collector of Salem and purchased and installed warping and sizing machines.

over twenty eight million couples

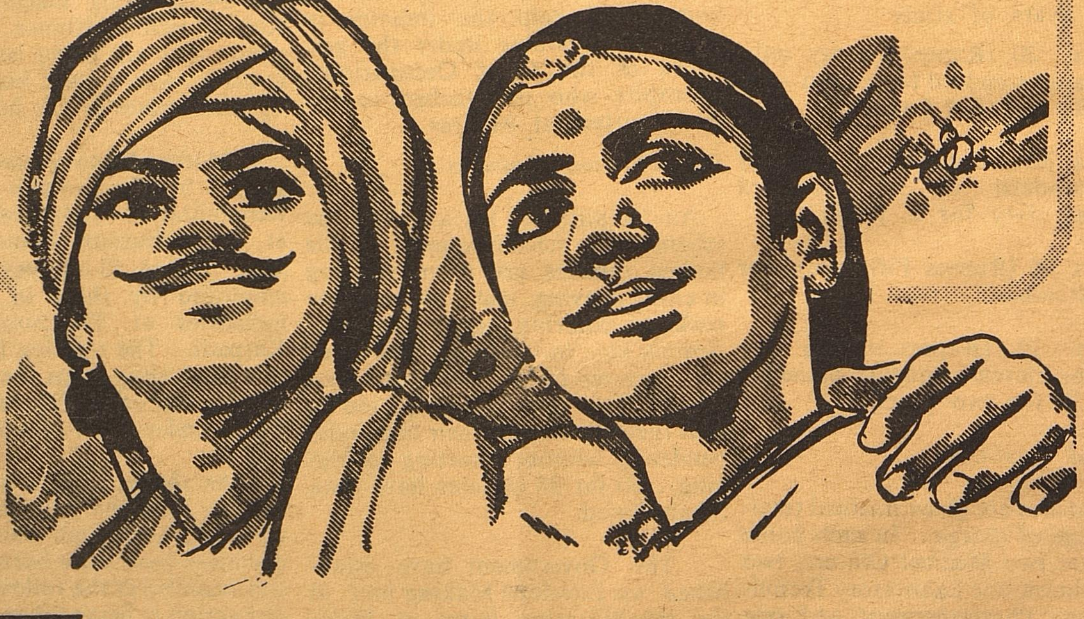
in India are today practising

FAMILY PLANNING

and they are

living better

IF YOU ARE AMONG THEM,
TELL YOUR NEIGHBOURS ; IF NOT, START NOW



▼ **SMALL FAMILY HAPPY FAMILY**

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POngAL *in* JAPAN

PROF. SUSUMU OHNO
C/o. Department of Tamil Literature,
University of Madras.

In my childhood, on the 15th of January we took a bowl of porridge containing red-beans. We used to scatter some sugar on it, and eat it every year. This custom is prevailing in Japan and it is not of recent origin. In 936 A. D., a famous Japanese poet Tsurayuki wrote in his diary on the 15th of January as follows : 'We cannot boil the porridge with red-beans today.' Being on ship, they were unable to do it. But by this document we recognize that people of the age customarily prepared porridge on that day.

Nowadays, in the north eastern part of Japanese archipelago, we can find such annual functions as below :

In Aomori Prefecture (a unit like a State), farmers give rice cakes to crows in the morning of the 15th of January.

In Iwate Prefecture in the morning of the same day, with rice-cakes in their bowls, children call the crows shouting, 'Come here crow.' We will give you rice-cakes.' Children throw the cakes to the crows.

In Akita Prefecture, farmers cry 'poo, poo', and they give rice-cakes to crows on the same day.

I can show more examples concerning this matter. By the functions mentioned above, we are able to establish a cultural resemblance between Tamils and Japanese. The following table shows the common features.

	DATE	FOOD	COLOUR	ADDITIONAL INGREDIENT	OFFERED TO
Tamil	15th Jan.	Porridge	Red	Sugar	Crow
Japan	15th Jan.	Porridge	Red	Sugar	Crow

I have found another function in the north eastern part of Japanese archipelago. In Aomori and Akita Prefectures, farmers go around their house reciting the following in the evening of the 15th of Janurry.

KOME NUKA (Ricebran) HONGA ! HONGA!

SOBA NUKA (Wheatbran) HONGA ! HONGA!

TOFU (Beancurd) HONGA ! HONGA!

In another village, farmers recite some phrases which mean as follows:

Beanbran, Honga! Honga !
Ricebran, Come flying to us !
Money, Come flying tc us !
Toddy. Come flying to us !
Beautiful Women Come flying to me !

In Nagano Prefecture farmers drive off the injurious birds by beating wooden plate (using it as a drum), in the morning of 15th January. This implies the wish for abundant crops. In this function, children shout at the end of the recited as Hongara hooi ! Hongara hooi ! In Japan, the people do not know the meaning of Honga or Hongara. The meaning has been already forgotten.

But in the Japanese, the consonant (h) was bilabial (*f*) before the 17 Century A.D. and it is believed by scholars that the bilabial (*f*) was pronounced as (*p*) in the earliest stage of the Japanese.

Therefore 'Honga' and 'Hongara' in Japanese were 'Ponga' and 'Pongara' respectively in the pre-historical age (Honga Fonga Ponga).

All the Japanese words end in a vowel. The consonant ending words when borrowed in Japanese tend to undergo the following changes :

(*a*) The final consonant is lost

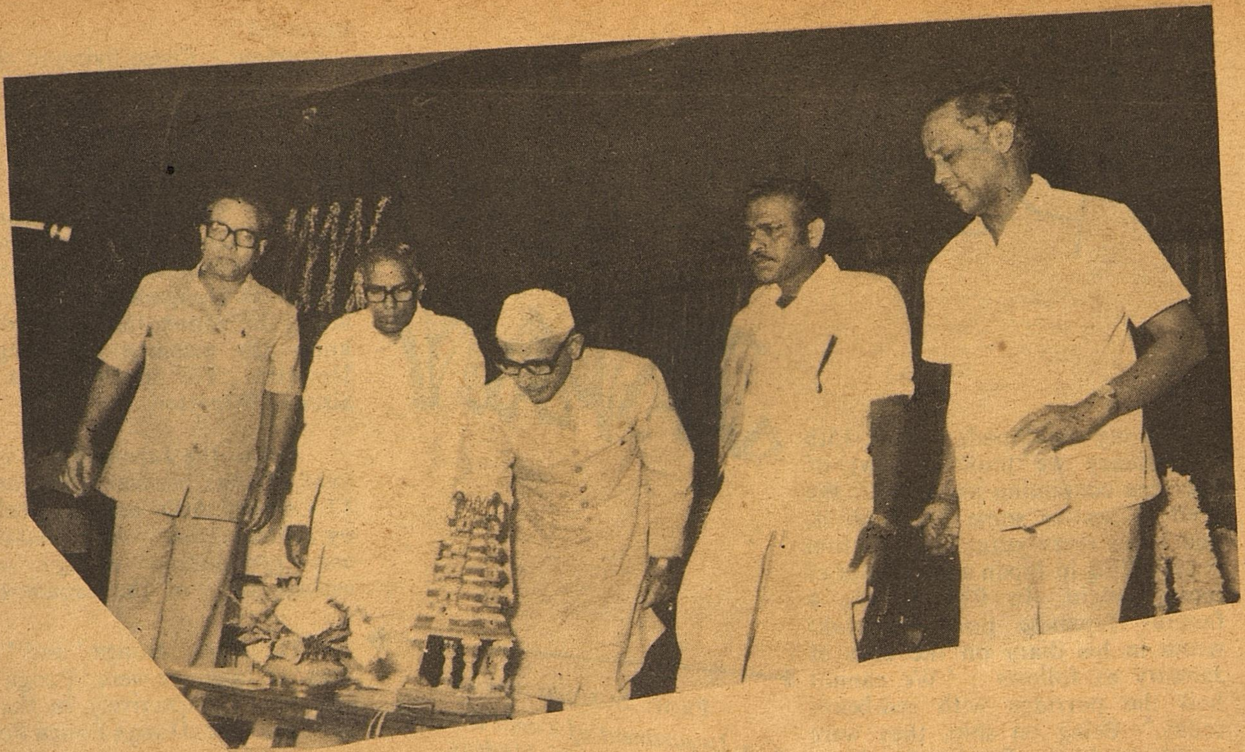
(*b*) An additional vowel (especially 'i' or 'u' or 'a') can be added.

It may be mentioned here that this is almost true in the case of colloquial Tamil as well. For example, English 'street' becomes , 'Stree' or 'Streetu' in Japanese. These changes have already taken place in the native words. We therefore get 'honga' and 'hongara' as derivatives from 'Pongal.' There is no distinction between r and l in Japanese.

In Tami'nadu, I have heard that in the evening of the 15th of January, farmers go around their houses reciting :

Pongalo Pongal
Pal Pongal
Then Pongal
Pongalo Pongal

The reciting phrases in Tamil and Japanese are essentially similar. These facts, I believe, suggest the existence of some fundamental cultural relationship between Tamil and Japanese.



9th ALL INDIA TOURIST & INDUSTRIAL FAIR 1982

The Tamilnadu Tourism Development Corporation has organised the All India Tourist and Industrial Fair for the 9th Year in succession during the Pongal Festival, the peak tourist season in Tamil Nadu. In order to highlight the Industrial Progress of Tamil Nadu, this Year's Fair has been organised as "Tourist and Industrial Fair". The response from the public to the Fair is on the increase year after year.

The Fair, which commenced on 9th January 1982 will be held for a period of 60 days. The site, where the Fair is conducted, extends to an area of about 22 acres on both the banks of the river Cooum.

To mark the Bharathi Centenary Year, a Statue of the Poet Subramania Bharathi adorns the main facade of the Fair on the War Memorial side. The other entrance is decorated with Silapathikaram Motiff "The Thorana vayil".

There are as many as 335 participants which include 43 Tamil Nadu Government Departments and Undertakings and 12 Central Government Departments and Undertakings. 49 Private Sector concerns have also put up their pavilions. Major Industrial units like Hindustan Teleprinters, Hindustan Machine Tools, Southern Petro Chemical Industries, Simpsons, Sundaram Clayton, Southern Asbestos, Farm Implements, Reliance Motors are also participating in the Fair.

The facade of the State Tourism Development pavilion portrays the famous TamilNaduRuralsport "Jallikattu". Places of tourist interest in Tamil Nadu are highlighted here through colour T.V. The pavilion of the Information and Public Relations Department depicts the life and the message of poet Bharathi. In a mini theatre here, shorts and documentaries are screened. One feels as though one has entered a temple when one enters the pavilion of the Hindu Religious Endowments Department. The significant contribution made by Adi Dravida Savants to Hindu Religion is one of the highlights of this pavilion. Beautiful icons and photographs and models of various temples are artistically displayed.

Demonstrations of the indigenously fabricated mobile sprinkler irrigation unit is held at the Agriculture Department pavilion. The pavilion of the Industries and Commerce Department highlights the assistance rendered by the State Government to the Industrial units.

The products displayed are television sets, galvanised pipes, tins, synthetic gems etc., manufactured by the units.

At TAMIN the major minerals displayed are limestone, quartz and feldspar, silica sand, rose quartz, fire clay, vermiculite etc.

Models of sanitary ware, stone ware pipes, crockery, stoneware jars, art pottery, mechanized bricks are displayed at the TACEL pavilion.

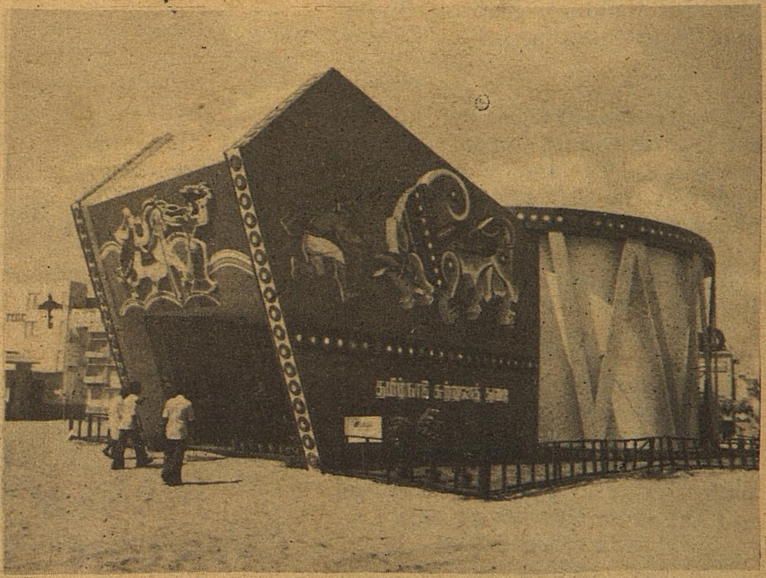
Poompuhar: Beautifully sculpted pieces in stone, intricate wood carvings, metal ware, art plates, icons famed for its beauty are artistically displayed at this pavilion.

Modern and scientific methods of prevention and detection of crimes are explained at the Police Deparment's pavilion. The main theme of the pavilion of the Corporation of Madras is to educate the public on the eradication and control of Malaria.

The pavilion of the Directorate of Indian Medicine describes the features of Siddha, Ayurveda and Unani systems of medicine. Specimens of various drugs including minerals, metals and herbal pots are on display.

The Madras Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board in their pavilion explain in detail the working of the water supply and sewerage functions through a "Sound and Light" programme.

The Tamil Nadu Text Book Society, in addition to explaining their activities, have displayed their publications which are available for sale.



The Department of Agricultural Marketing displays in their stall models of the various activities in the Regulated Market. Agmark products like oil, ghee, ground spices, honey etc. are sold here.

The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producer's Federation with an annual turn over of over Rs. 35 crores provides centralised technical inputs and takes care of marketing of milk in Madras and Madurai and helps member unions in marketing their surplus Dairy Products. This is explained in their pavilion put up in the Fair. Milk and Milk products are also sold to the visitors.

The proposed Kottur Bridge adorns the frontage of the Highways and Rural Works Department's pavilion. The models on display here include Test Track at Highways Research Station, 100 Tonne Test vehicle, a low cost building, Bhavani Bridge near Mettupalayam, L.I.C. Subway etc.

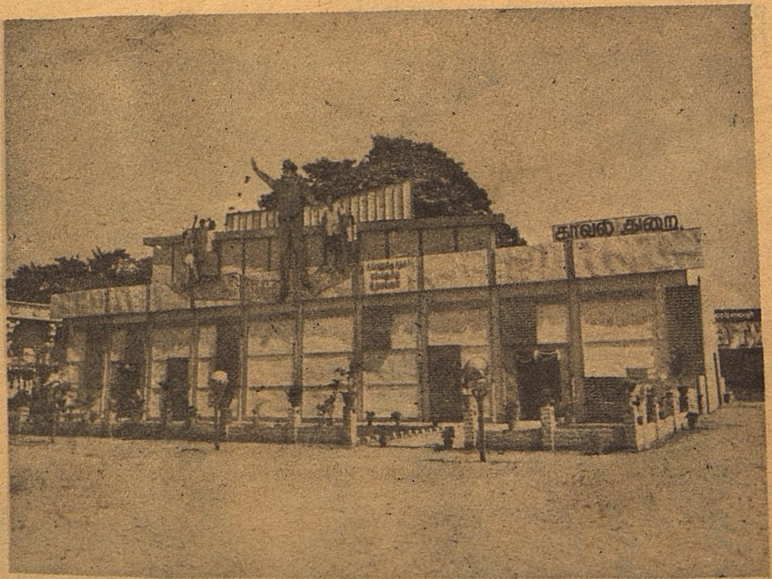
The handicrafts of the five states of the North eastern region; Assam, Mehalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram etc., highlight the cultural tradition exclusive to that region.

The Snake Park and the colourful fountains and parks are added attractions.

The Tamilnadu Tourism Development Corporation runs a Restaurant in the Fair grounds this year which is located in a pavilion designed on the pattern of "Hotel Tamil Nadu", the T.T.D.C. Star Hotel at Madurai.

Specially trained cooks have been employed in the TTDC restaurant and the popularity of the food items served here is evident from the fact that there has been record collections in the first 12 days (Rs.31,815).

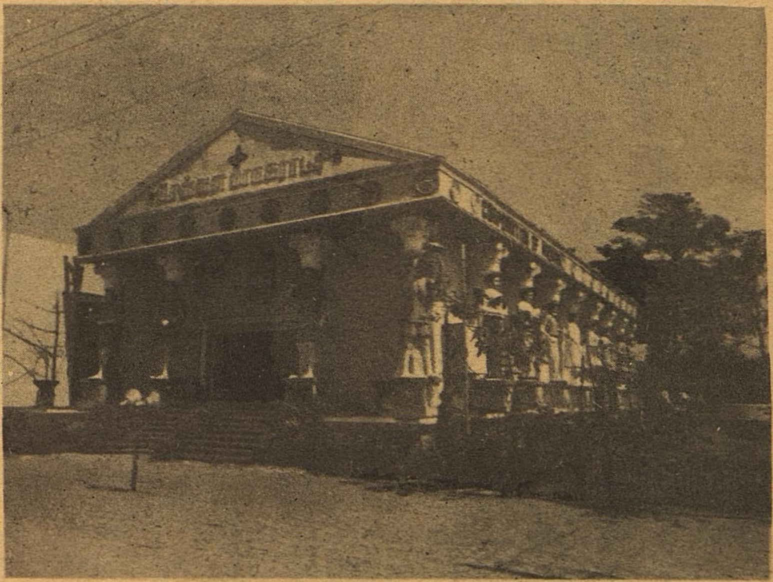
Seminars and discussions are organised by leading industrial units during the Fair period. A colourful fountain beautifies the Central Plaza. The Handloom Bazaar, the shopping Arcade, the amusement Complex etc. have all been improved upon and made more attractive. The annual features such as the Dog Show, the Horticulture Show, the Food Fair etc. have been organised this year in a more attractive manner. The Arignar Anna Auditorium, and mini Theatre and the open Air Cinema theatre provide cultural programmes like Dance, Drama and Music, and also popular movies. More than 25



lakh people visit the Fair every year and a record turn over is expected this year in view of the unique added attractions.

The facade of the Forest Department has been got up aesthetically. Details of the Wild Life sanctuaries and the bird sanctuaries of Tamil Nadu have been displayed in this pavilion. The use of forests and forest products are explained.

The Pallavan Transport Corporation has arranged special buses from various parts of the City and Transport facility will be available till late in the night from fair grounds. The Fair timings are 2 P.M. to 10 P.M. and the tickets for admission are rupee one for adult and 0.50 paise for the child.



The Fair includes a stall with video games, which attracts large number of youngsters in search of amusement.

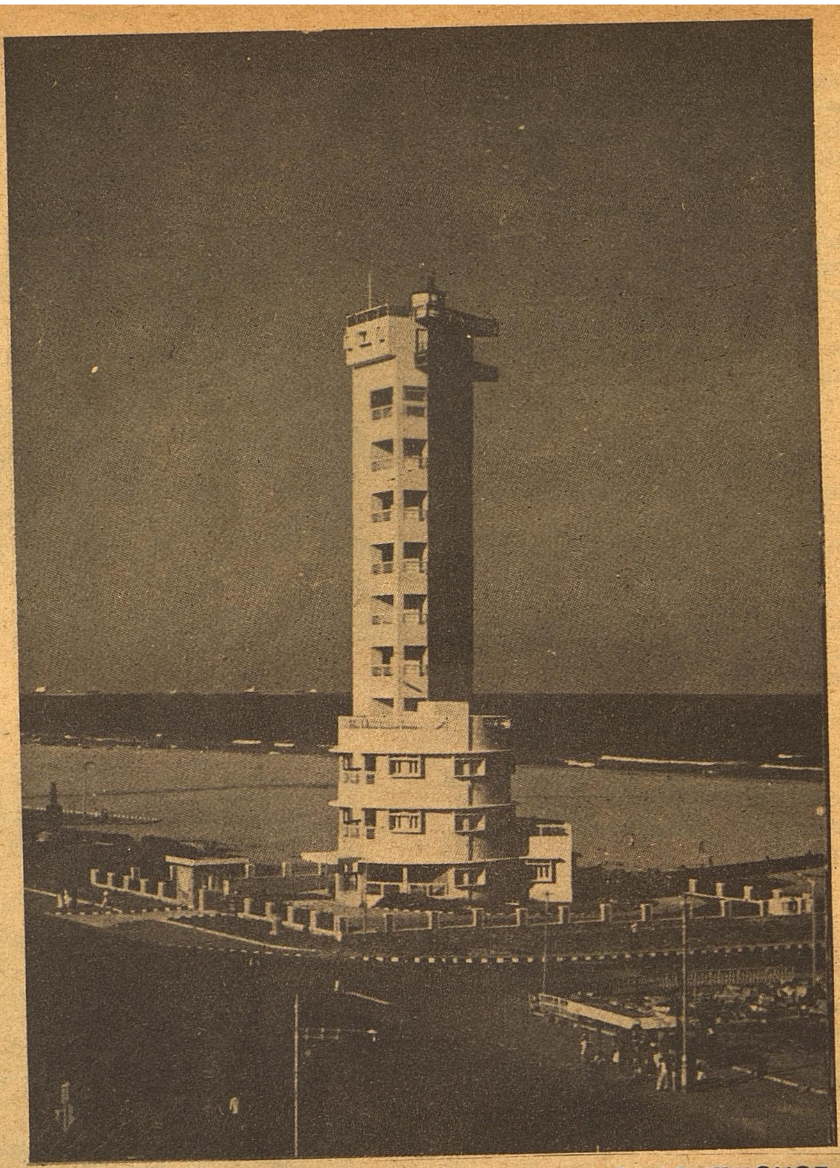
Another novel feature of this Fair is the live telecast of the programmes held in the auditorium for the benifit of those who come to the garden restaurant attached to the TTDC's Hotel Tamilnadu.

Television sets have also been installed in various places to telecast Madras TV station programmes.

The public areas where the people squat for a break and for taking snacks have been specially beautified with a large number of potted plants, fountains, etc.

The popularity of the Fair may be seen from the fact that in the first 12 days the total collections have been in the order of Rs. 3.5 lakhs, of which Rs.3.04 lakhs accounts for gate collections. It is estimated that about 4 lakhs people have visited the Fair so far in the first 12 days.

100 Years of Madras Light House



NEW MADRAS LIGHTHOUSE

Madras is a very important port on the East Coast of India and is the capital city of the southern State of Tamil Nadu in the Indian Union.. The history of the Madras Lighthouse dates back to 1795. The vessels approaching Madras those days at night fall from the south were compelled to risk the shoals of Covelong. Those approaching from the north had to guard against the sand banks of Armagaon and Pulicat. The masters of these vessels therefore suggested a fixed light on Fort St. George in Madras. In those days the sea was breaking quite close to the walls of the Fort. The goods and passengers were brought through the surf by boats and landed on the sandy beach. The original idea was to set up a light on the steeple of St. Mary's Church. The chaplain

who got his authority from the Bishop of London refused permission on the grounds that the Church could not be put to profane or common use. The roof of the exchange in the Fort was therefore selected by the Government In 1796, a lantern fed by oil bearing wicks, fixed to iron wire supports, was established thereon. A new lighthouse was erected between 1838 and 1843 immediately to the north of Fort St. George and a flashing light consisting of Argand lamps and reflectors was exhibited from this lighthouse with effect from Ist January, 1844. When the High Court building was completed in 1892 it was decided to shift the lighthouse to the main dome of the High Court building. The light from the top of the High Court dome started functioning from the Ist June, 1894. This originally consisted of a wick burner. In 1827 the wick burner was replaced by a 55 mm Auto Form Chance Brothers Burner. In 1953, electricity was introduced by fixing a bulb and that arrangement continued till 1960. Subsequently the operation was reverted to P.V. Burner.

The masonry dome, from the top of which the light is exhibited, has developed cracks and the equipment also outlived its useful life and need replacement. Many high buildings have come up between this light and the sea and the structure is not therefore conspicuous. A new tower on the beach was therefore considered necessary. It has accordingly been decided to construct a new lighthouse at a new site on the Marina Beach and instal thereon a new powerful electrically operated optical equipment.

The new Lighthouse was commissioned into service on 10.1.1977.

DESIGN

Location

The new lighthouse is located at the end of Marina Beach.

Architecture

As the lighthouse is located in Madras City and on the Marina Beach ,a large number of tourists/visitors visit the lighthouse daily. In view of this it was decided that the lighthouse tower which will be a very prominent land mark should be a piece of tourist attraction and should be given architectural treatment. Accordingly a triangular tower which is very distinct from the usual conventional shape of the towers (Circular, Square and Hexagonal) has been specially disigned for this station. This is the first lighthouse in the country having an attached electric lift of 13 passengers capacity to carry visitors . A circular three storeyed attached building houses the power house, rest rooms, inspecting officers' suites etc. The sea side face of the tower is having a continuous vertical R.C.C. Grill. An open sitout is provided at first floor level and this offers a commanding view of the sea. A well laid out garden is provided alround.

Foundation

The site for the lighthouse is located very near the sea. The soil is mainly sandy. The sub soil water is quite high. It was, therefore, decided to have pile foundation for the lighthouse tower.

Superstructure

The tower is triangular in Plan. The external length of this equilanteral triangle is 7.162 m. The height of the tower is 45.720 m up to top of top slab. The wall thickness of tower varies from 343 mm at bottom to 254 mm at top. A staircase is provided inside the tower for access to the service room and lantern room. For visitors an electric lift has been provided. The lift machinery is located at the top of lift well in a separate machine room. From the last landing of the lift a staircase has been provided for the visitors to reach the machine room level. The access thereafter to the top is by means of a steel ladder. This has been done with a view to avoid visitors entering the lantern. The tower is having reinforced concrete grill work on its sea side face. Rest rooms, Inspecting Officers' rooms, Powerhouse etc. are provided in the attached 3 storeyed building. The tower has been painted in red and white bands.

Optical Equipment

Lantern

The internal diameter of the lantern is 2.5 metres .The murrette which is 1.25 M high comprises 10 segments of cast iron panels bolted together. One of the segments is provided with the door to give access from the lantern to outside. The other segments are provided each with a hand operated hit and miss ventilator. The glazing consists of 20 curved polished glass panes held between vertical standards in two courses. The cupola is of conical copper roof plates, with ventilator, drip dish, foot and hand rails, external ladder, lightning conductor etc.

Optical Apparatus

The optical equipment consists of a small revolving lens of 375 mm focal radius with four dioptric and catadioptric panels associated in pairs and rotating at a speed of 3 r.p.m. to provide the character of group flashing (2) every 10 seconds, the duration of the flash being 0.33 seconds. The equipment is electrically operated and the effective beam intensity produced is 2.44 million candelas.

The optic is mounted on a third order small mercury float pedestal complete with lens table, through float, float support etc. The rotation is provided by a clock work mechanism consisting of a standard weight driven 12-hour clock. The normal rewinding is by electric motors.

The main illuminant consists of 3000 watt 110 volts electric lamp. An automatic lamp changer with current relay, trip magnet, lamp fuses etc. brings a standby lamp into focus in the vent of main lamp failure. The emergency illuminant comprises an incandescent acetylene ASR-3 mantle with burner of capacity 60 litres per hour. The gas supply is from two D gas accumulators installed at the base of the tower. When the light runs on the emergency gas burner, the optic is revolved by gas motors.

Power Supply Equipment

The light normally runs off local mains supply. A generator set is also provided at the station to act as stand by in the event of mains failure. The alternator is protected and self ventilated having an output of 12.5 KVA at 0.8 power factor, the voltage being 220-230, frequency 50 cycles and speed 1000 r.p.m. It is coupled to a two cylinder, water cooled radiator type diesel engine.

Cost

The total cost of the scheme is Rs. 2.3 million including the purchase and installation of optical equipment.

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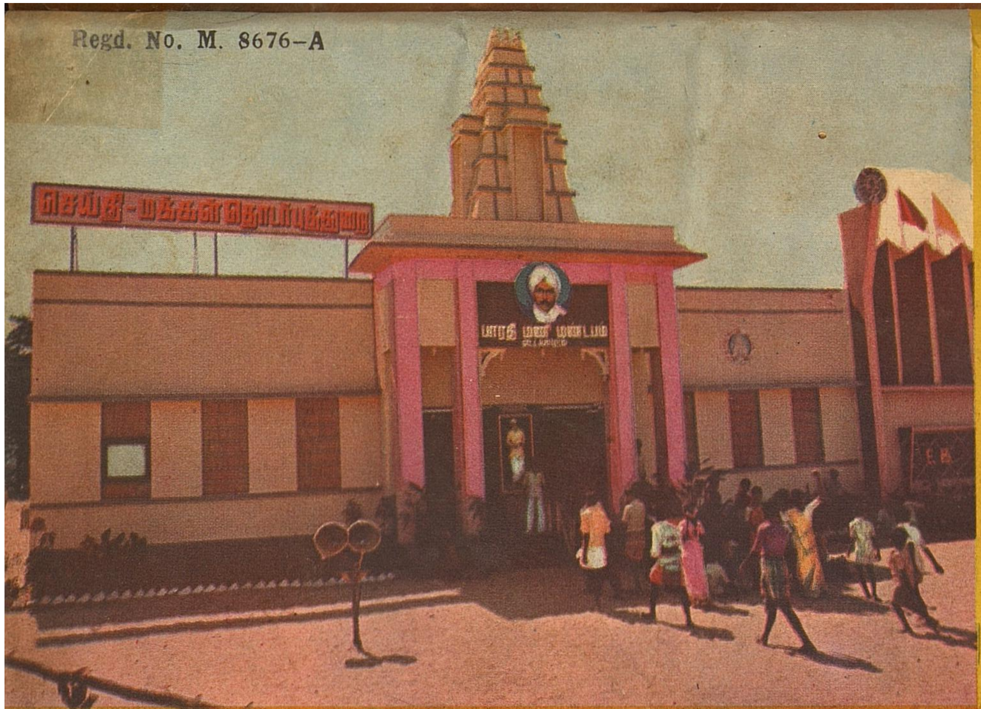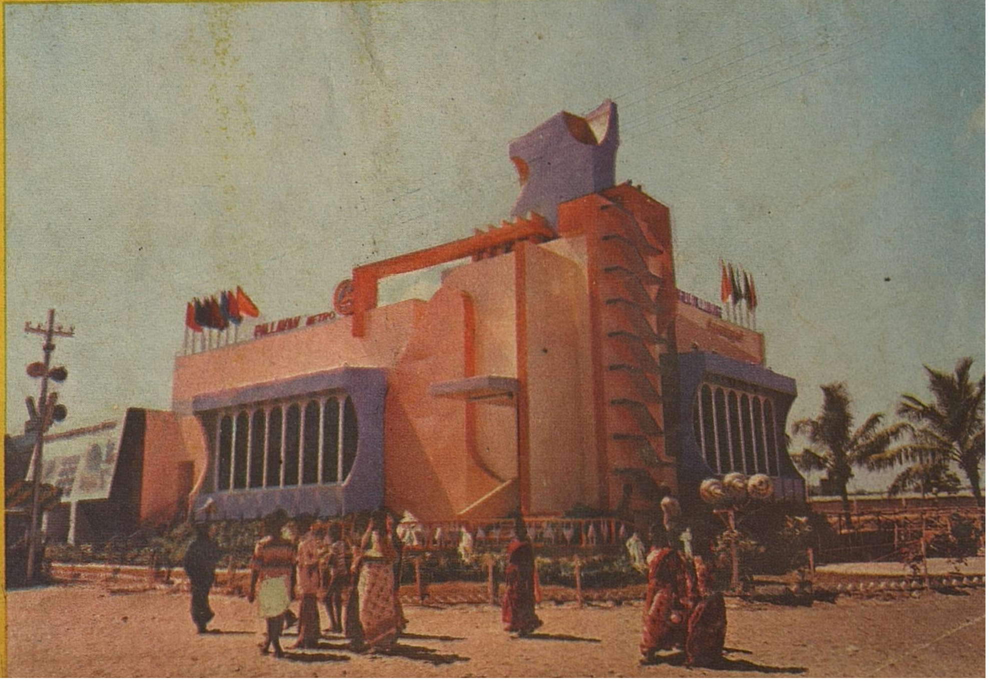
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